



Standards Jury Session Information

2026 Schedule

	<i>Application, Samples, and Fee Deadline</i>	<i>Standards Jury Session Date</i>
Spring 2026	Received by March 11, 2026	March 24, 2026
Fall 2026	Received by July 15, 2026	July 28, 2026

Shipping Address: Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen
137 N. Broadway
Berea, KY 40403
or
P.O. Box 291
Berea, KY 40403

Contact Info: 859-986-3192
kgacinfo@gmail.com (email is the quickest way to receive a response)

Standards Jury Information for Applicants

The Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen is an organization of professional-level artists and craftspeople. Exacting standards of excellence are required for Exhibiting Membership.

KGAC's jury process is intended to *include* those whose work is of exemplary quality. The standards level applied to jurying is solely that of this organization and its jurors. It is not based on the levels of any other organizations or groups.

KGAC may hold several Standards Jury Sessions per year. Special sessions may be held at the discretion of the Board. Additional application forms, complete current Standards policies, and specific information about the delivery and return of work can be requested from the KGAC.

Each submission to the KGAC Standards Jury process is judged on its own merit. Consistent design, workmanship, and overall excellence are essential. The submitted work must be representative of the applicants' best efforts, both creatively and technically.

****Applicants to the KGAC Standards Jury process must live in Kentucky or within 50 miles of Kentucky's state border.**

Application is made in one of the following categories – select the one that best describes how you work:

Individual – A single artist or craftsperson producing their own work.

Designer/Craftsperson – A single artist or craftsperson who employs a limited number of people who work directly under his/her supervision in the production of work to be sold under the artist's/craftsperson's name.

Associated – A group of individuals who work together to produce a single type of work. (This does not include families in which various members are involved with different media.)

KGAC Standards Jury Procedure

Jurors are selected from among the KGAC Exhibiting Membership by the Standards Committee and approved by the KGAC Board of Directors. The Standards Committee and/or the Board may select jurors from outside KGAC as needed.

To be accepted as an Exhibiting Member, work must meet established levels for both design and craftsmanship. An entry that does not pass **may** be recommended for the KGAC Mentor Program.

- **Design** (creativity) – Basic design excellence – function, personal expression, honesty, suitability, creativity, innovation, and aesthetic quality; established design integrity.
- **Craftsmanship** (technical expertise) – Technical competency required of all artists and craftspeople – skill, integrity, presentation, finishing, and other aspects of good workmanship.

The Application Process involves filling out **two** forms:

- 1) **Standards Application** – to be submitted with a \$35.00 entry fee.
- 2) **Standards Jury Entry Form** – to be submitted with work.

You must submit these **two** forms and a \$35.00 Jury Fee **FOR EACH MEDIUM/CATEGORY YOU WISH TO JURY**.
PLEASE NOTE: Both forms, jury fee, and work must be received by the deadline.

Recommended Guidelines for Submitting Entries

You should submit what you consider to be samples of your BEST work to the KGAC Standards Jury Session. Jurors will assume that your entry represents your best work. An entry is **five** sample items or **sets of items** (see **below**) of your work that are made in the same medium and category, using the same technique. Submit additional entries when the technique or design is substantially different, even if they are in the same medium and category.

2D artists who work in more than one medium should submit five pieces for each medium, i.e. five watercolors, five oils, five pastels, acrylics, drawings, etc. **Each entry of five pieces is an additional application form and jury fee.**

Work employing techniques, styles, or materials that vary greatly should not be mixed within a single entry. As examples, the following should be submitted as two separate entries of five pieces each: weaving vs. knitting (techniques); large sculptural pieces vs. functional pottery (styles); jewelry created from wood vs. jewelry created from metal (materials).

Applicants who severely limit their entry by submitting five very similar pieces (i.e. all mugs, all scarves, etc.) may be passed, but the applicant will be advised that these item(s), (mugs, scarves), are the only item(s) for which the applicant has received KGAC Exhibiting status.

Sets of items, i.e. a pair of gloves or a necklace and earring set, would be considered one piece. Sets may consist of **up to three items** per set. Entries consisting of more than five pieces will not be juried, except as noted here. **Submission of sets is not required; however, it is an option for applicants who feel submission of sets would better represent their work. **The total number of pieces or sets MUST always equal five (5). For example, an entry may consist of two SETS plus three individual pieces. Please call or email the KGAC Office if you need guidance regarding submission of SETS.**

Examples of Sets: 2D Triptychs; a set of jewelry (coordinated necklace and bracelet); a pottery place setting in the same glaze (plate, bowl, cup); coordinated clothing (hat, scarf, mittens OR jacket, skirt).

For Bath & Body Products: you may submit a set of five. Example: up to three soaps, up to three lotions, up to three bath salts, up to three body butter, and up to three lip balms for a total of five sets of items.

Additional Suggestions

1. **Enter five items that coordinate together as a cohesive grouping.**

Example: chest, table, chair, settee, rocker (all pieces of furniture).

2. **Balance variety with the showing of consistent craftsmanship.**

Example: Various color combinations of yarns.

Example: Different types of felted wearables, such as a hat, vest, tie, scarf, and belt.

REMEMBER: If you submit only one type of item, such as hats, you will be allowed to exhibit *only* hats.

3. **Pay attention to details.**

Example: Make sure the edges are finished.

Example: Clean off extraneous glue, solvents, etc.

Example: Send new pieces.

4. **Include written explanations of your work.**

Example: Give a complete written explanation of your work and attach it to the entry form. Include information about color inspirations, techniques used, and explanations of any unusual use of common forms or techniques. This information helps the jurors interpret your work.

Example: The use of a patina on jewelry could be mistaken for tarnished work which could make the entry look old and not fresh. An explanation of the use of patina for effect will be understood and juried on its merits.

Displaying Work for Jurying

1. **Keep the display simple but effective.**

Example: Use a velvet pad or colored paper as a background for jewelry. Keep the background neutral.

Example: If you have beautiful packaging as a part of your sales presentation, send a box for each entry. This is also a shipping benefit.

Note: Jurors need to see the back side of jewelry pieces, so putting jewelry on cards may be a hindrance to viewing the piece.

2. **Consider stands for sculptural pieces.**

Example: Include stands or displays used to support structural works or pieces that will be sold together.

Example: Send sculptural garden stakes in large clay pots filled with earth.

3. **Include frames with 2 Dimensional work.**

Example: Send frames that are professionally done and which enhance the work. Jurors want to see your final presentation.

Additional Important Do's and Don'ts

1. **Submit actual work only** – slides are **NOT** accepted.

2. **Remove identifying marks.** To assure as much as possible an anonymous jury process, KGAC requests that identifying marks (a signature or business name on any part of the piece) **must be removed or covered by the applicant.** If this is not done suitably, the pieces will not be juried.

Example: Cover signature on painting with painter's tape.

3. **KGAC will accept 2D reproductions for jurying under the following circumstances:**

- a. Exhibiting Members who are currently juried for 2D work (excluding Photography), may submit one reproduction and the original in their juried field to the **Derivative Work Review**. The reproduction will be judged against the original for the quality of printing workmanship.
- b. Individuals who are not currently juried for 2D work and wish to be juried for reproductions must first pass the KGAC Standards Jury procedure with their original 2D work. Applicants should submit five pieces of original 2D work and a reproduction of one of those five. The five pieces of original work will be juried first. If this work passes, then the reproduction will be juried for its quality. **If you have included a reproduction along with your five originals to be juried, please complete a copy of the *Standards Jury Entry Form* for your reproduction, and include the form with your work when it is shipped/delivered.** Otherwise, we cannot guarantee that the reproduction will be juried.
- c. **REPRODUCTIONS MUST BE PRINTED ON ACID-FREE PAPER, USING ARCHIVAL INKS (Inks of significant longevity).**
- d. Items such as notecards and calendars need not be juried as reproductions once your prints have passed the Derivative Work Review.

4. **Work that will not be considered for jurying:**

- a. Items made from or based on kits or commercial patterns.
- b. Items made from commercial molds (unless the mold itself was created by the applying craftsman).
- c. Commercial products or items purchased and decorated (such as t-shirts, purchased unfinished furniture).
- d. Work made from combining purchased commercial objects unless the commercial objects are minor, functional components of the overall design and craftsmanship.
- e. Dried flowers unless employed as part of an arrangement.
- f. Jewelry that consists only of strung beads that do not incorporate any handmade element.
- g. Classroom or student work.
- h. Work produced more than three (3) years ago.
- i. Posters.
- j. Digital impressions of appropriated images are not allowed. (Work that is not the artists' own: i.e. clip-art, downloaded paintings, prints, drawings, etc.)

Important Information: Shipping and Delivery Instructions

Shipping: Work can be shipped or personally delivered to the KGAC Gallery in Berea. Any work being shipped to KGAC for the jury session should arrive no later than the deadline date. Entries shipped will be returned at the applicant's expense. KGAC will not be held responsible for any items broken during shipment. Items that are not hand-delivered will be returned via the applicants' pre-paid choice of carrier. You must provide appropriate and sufficient packing materials,

along with specific instructions for packing, if necessary. The shipping cost (plus insurance) and pre-addressed mailing label(s), along with instructions regarding insurance, etc., must be included with the work when it is delivered to the KGAC office. KGAC will take the utmost care of your work while it is at the office and at the Standards Jury Session. KGAC will not be held responsible for any loss or damage while the work is in our care. All insurance coverage is the responsibility of the artist.

Delivery and Pickup: If you will be delivering your work for the jury session, please call the office at (859) 986-3192 or email us at kgacinfo@gmail.com to schedule a drop-off time. Pick-up dates and times will be pre-arranged by the KGAC Office.

KGAC Standards Jury Session Results

KGAC Standards Jury Session results will be emailed from the office within two (2) weeks. No results can be given by phone. Jury results will include a copy of the jurors' written comments. Applicants whose work does not pass KGAC's Standards Jury process *may* be referred to the Mentor Program. Mentors are volunteers selected from KGAC's Exhibiting Membership. If a Mentor is recommended, Mentors can assist the applicant (for a specified amount of time) in understanding how to bring his/her work to the standards required by KGAC.

KGAC Membership Requirements

Applicants who pass the Standard Jury Session will receive a follow-up email with details regarding membership. **Passing applicants have 15 days from when acceptance notice is sent to pay membership dues.** To keep your membership status current, you must pay the annual dues in a timely manner. If dues are not paid on time, membership is considered lapsed. Lapsed members may go through a lapsed membership process, which could lead to having to undergo the jury process again. Annual dues are as follows: \$75 for Exhibiting Individual, \$80 for Exhibiting Designer, and \$85 for Exhibiting Associate. For mid-year jury sessions, the dues amount will be prorated for the remaining months of the year. Future membership renewals are due by December 31 each year. You will receive a reminder email for filling out a renewal form and sending payment.

Application Checklist

	<i>The Standards Jury Application, Standards Jury Entry Form and jury fee must be received no later than the deadline date posted at the beginning of this form.</i>
	<i>We only accept actual samples of your work to be juried; photographs of your work will not be accepted. Work to be shipped must arrive in the KGAC office no later than the deadline date posted at the beginning of this form. If you are dropping off your work at the office, please contact us before delivery to make an appointment. Email us at kgacinfo@gmail.com.</i>
	<i>If the work is to be shipped back, include your paid return address label, including any insurance fees.</i>
	<i>All pieces of work must be labeled with numbers corresponding with the item numbers on The Standards Jury Entry Form.</i>
	<i>Applicant names are to be covered with tape, paper, sticker, etc.</i>